

**Introduced by Senator Wolk  
(Principal coauthor: Senator Evans)**

February 22, 2013

---

---

An act to add Chapter 1.21 (commencing with Section 5081) to Division 5 of, and to add Chapter 5.2 (commencing with Section 42280) to Part 3 of Division 30 of, the Public Resources Code, relating to natural resources.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 700, as introduced, Wolk. Natural resources: parks: carryout bags.

(1) Existing law requires an operator of a store, as defined, to establish an at-store recycling program that provides to customers the opportunity to return clean plastic carryout bags to that store. This requirement is repealed on January 1, 2013. Existing law prohibits a city, county, or other local public agency from taking specified regulatory actions with regard to the recycling of plastic carryout bags. Existing law provides for the enforcement of those provisions by local agencies and by the state and requires the civil penalties collected by the state to be expended by the Attorney General, upon appropriation by the Legislature, to implement these requirements.

This bill would require a retail establishment, as defined, to collect a charge of \$0.05 for each single-use carryout bag provided to a customer. The bill would require the retail establishment to retain \$0.005 of that charge and would allow a retail establishment to retain an additional \$0.005 if the retail establishment credits the consumer no less than \$0.05 for each carryout bag provided by the consumer for packaging his or her purchases, and meets other requirements.

The bill would require the retail establishment to remit the collected charges to the State Board of Equalization, which would be required to

collect the charges pursuant to the Fee Collection Procedures Law. Since certain violations of that law are a crime, the bill would impose a state-mandated local program.

The bill would allow the governing body of a city or county to adopt an ordinance that provides that the charge does not apply in that city or county.

The bill would require the collected charges to be deposited in the Local Environmental Enhancement Fund, which this bill would create in the State Treasury. The bill would provide that the money deposited in the fund is available for expenditure by the Natural Resources Agency, upon appropriation by the Legislature. The bill would require the agency, after retaining no more than 5% of the moneys for the implementation of the bill, to allocate the remaining revenues in the fund to issue grants to a city or county for local parks and for local programs aimed at reducing and cleaning up litter. The bill would allow a city or county to apply for grants up to an amount that does not exceed the total amount of revenues generated by the city or county in which the park or program is located, except as specified with regard to administrative costs.

This bill would constitute a change in state statute that would result in a taxpayer paying a higher tax within the meaning of Section 3 of Article XIII A of the California Constitution, and thus would require for passage the approval of  $\frac{2}{3}$  of the membership of each house of the Legislature.

(2) The California Constitution requires the state to reimburse local agencies and school districts for certain costs mandated by the state. Statutory provisions establish procedures for making that reimbursement. This bill would provide that no reimbursement is required by this act for a specified reason.

Vote:  $\frac{2}{3}$ . Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes.  
State-mandated local program: yes.

*The people of the State of California do enact as follows:*

- 1 SECTION 1. Chapter 1.21 (commencing with Section 5081)
- 2 is added to Division 5 of the Public Resources Code, to read:

1 CHAPTER 1.21. LOCAL ENVIRONMENTAL ENHANCEMENT ACT

2  
3 5081. There is hereby established the Local Environmental  
4 Enhancement Fund in the State Treasury. All moneys deposited  
5 in the fund are available for expenditure by the Natural Resources  
6 Agency, upon appropriation by the Legislature, for the purposes  
7 of this chapter. After retaining no more than 5 percent of the  
8 moneys annually deposited in the Local Environmental  
9 Enhancement Fund for the implementation of this chapter, the  
10 Natural Resources Agency shall allocate the remaining revenues  
11 in the fund to issue grants to cities and counties for local parks and  
12 for local programs aimed at reducing and cleaning up litter, which  
13 shall include grants for any of the following purposes:

14 (a) Operating and maintenance costs, including repair costs, for  
15 facilities, visitor centers, restrooms, campsites, and ranger stations,  
16 with priority for the expenditure of the grant by private nonprofit  
17 organizations that have taken over park operations.

18 (b) Acquisitions, with priority for parks in disadvantaged  
19 communities with few park resources.

20 (c) Expansion of access to parks, including public outreach and  
21 education, improved transportation access, safety, and security.

22 (d) Protecting and restoring park cultural and historical  
23 resources.

24 (e) Litter abatement and cleanup programs, including beach  
25 cleanup programs.

26 5082. (a) A grant shall not be issued pursuant to this chapter  
27 if the park or program is located within a jurisdiction that has  
28 adopted an ordinance pursuant to Section 42285.

29 (b) A city or county may apply for a grant pursuant to Section  
30 5081 in an amount that does not exceed the total amount of  
31 revenues generated by retail establishments located in that city or  
32 county pursuant to Chapter 5.2 (commencing with Section 42280)  
33 of Part 3 of Division 30, less the administrative costs authorized  
34 by this chapter and subdivision (d) of Section 42282.

35 SEC. 2. Chapter 5.2 (commencing with Section 42280) is added  
36 to Part 3 of Division 30 of the Public Resources Code, to read:

CHAPTER 5.2. SINGLE-USE CARRYOUT BAGS

1  
2  
3 42280. For the purposes of this chapter, the following terms  
4 shall apply:

5 (a) "Retail establishment" means a retail establishment that sells  
6 food for consumption on or off the premises or that is issued a  
7 Type 20 or Type 21 license by the Department of Alcoholic  
8 Beverage Control.

9 (b) "Reusable grocery bag" means a bag made of cloth or other  
10 machine washable fabric that has handles or a durable plastic bag  
11 with handles that is at least 2.25 mils thick, contains at least 20  
12 percent postconsumer recycled material, and is specifically  
13 designed for multiple uses.

14 (c) "Single-use carryout bag" means a bag made of plastic,  
15 paper, or other material that is provided by a store to a customer  
16 at the point of sale and that is not a reusable grocery bag.

17 42281. (a) There is hereby imposed on each customer making  
18 a purchase from a retail establishment a charge of five cents (\$0.05)  
19 for each single-use carryout bag.

20 (b) A customer shall pay the charge specified in subdivision (a)  
21 to the retailer at the time of the purchase.

22 (c) A retail establishment shall indicate on the consumer  
23 transaction receipt the number of single-use carryout bags provided  
24 and the total amount of the charge.

25 (d) (1) A retail establishment shall retain five mills (\$0.005) of  
26 each five-cent (\$0.05) charge paid pursuant to subdivision (a).

27 (2) A retail establishment may retain an additional five mills  
28 (\$0.005) of each five-cent (\$0.05) charge paid pursuant to  
29 subdivision (a) if the retail establishment does all of the following:

30 (A) Credits the consumer no less than five cents (\$0.05) for  
31 each carryout bag provided by a consumer for packaging the  
32 consumer's purchases, regardless of whether that bag is paper,  
33 plastic, or reusable.

34 (B) Prominently advertises the credit specified in subparagraph  
35 (A) at each checkout register.

36 (C) Reflects the total credit amount on the consumer transaction  
37 receipt.

38 (e) Notwithstanding Section 6011 of the Revenue and Taxation  
39 Code, "sales price" shall not include the charge imposed pursuant  
40 to this section.

1 42282. (a) A retail establishment subject to this chapter shall  
2 remit the charges collected pursuant to Section 42281 to the State  
3 Board of Equalization.

4 (b) The State Board of Equalization shall collect the charges  
5 pursuant to the Fee Collection Procedures Law (Part 30  
6 (commencing with Section 55001) of Division 2 of the Revenue  
7 and Taxation Code). For the purposes of this section, the reference  
8 in the Fee Collection Procedures Law to “feepayer” shall include  
9 a consumer or a retail establishment.

10 (c) The State Board of Equalization shall adopt regulations for  
11 the frequency and method for reporting and transmitting the  
12 charges collected pursuant to this section.

13 (d) The State Board of Equalization may retain and expend,  
14 upon appropriation by the Legislature, not more than 5 percent of  
15 the charges annually collected pursuant to this chapter for purposes  
16 of administering the fee collection provisions of this chapter.

17 42283. (a) Except as provided in Section 42281, all charges  
18 collected pursuant to this chapter shall be deposited in the Local  
19 Environmental Enhancement Fund, for expenditure pursuant to  
20 Chapter 1.21 (commencing with Section 5081) of Division 5.

21 (b) The State Board of Equalization shall establish a procedure  
22 for tracking all revenues deposited in the Local Environmental  
23 Enhancement Fund based on the city or county where the retail  
24 establishment is located.

25 42284. (a) This chapter does not preempt or prohibit the  
26 adoption, implementation, or enforcement of any local ordinance,  
27 resolution, regulation, or rule governing single-use carryout bags,  
28 including, but not limited to, the imposition of a charge or fee with  
29 regard to the sale or distribution of single-use carryout bags.

30 (b) This chapter does not prohibit the adoption, implementation,  
31 or enforcement of any local ordinance, resolution, regulation, or  
32 rule governing curbside or drop off recycling programs operated  
33 by, or pursuant to a contract with, a city, county, or other public  
34 agency, including any action relating to fees or charges for these  
35 programs.

36 (c) This chapter does not affect any contract, franchise, permit,  
37 license, or other arrangement regarding the collection or recycling  
38 of solid waste or household hazardous waste.

1 42285. The governing body of a city or county may adopt an  
2 ordinance that provides that the charge imposed pursuant to this  
3 chapter does not apply in that city or county.

4 SEC. 3. No reimbursement is required by this act pursuant to  
5 Section 6 of Article XIII B of the California Constitution because  
6 the only costs that may be incurred by a local agency or school  
7 district will be incurred because this act creates a new crime or  
8 infraction, eliminates a crime or infraction, or changes the penalty  
9 for a crime or infraction, within the meaning of Section 17556 of  
10 the Government Code, or changes the definition of a crime within  
11 the meaning of Section 6 of Article XIII B of the California  
12 Constitution.